

**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing former Indiana  
State Senator Joseph W. Harrison.

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**BOOTS**

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\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

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**SENATE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION memorializing former Indiana State Senator Joseph W. Harrison.

*Whereas, Former Indiana State Senator Joseph W. Harrison, known affectionately by many as "Joe Bill", passed away peacefully on December 2, 2010, at the age of 79;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison represented Indiana's 23rd District for 40 years, and spent the majority of his life serving his community;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was born in Chicago on September 10, 1931. He graduated from Attica High School in 1949. Following that, he attended Purdue University, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi Fraternity;*

*Whereas, In 1952, Senator Harrison left Purdue to attend the United States Naval Academy. He was captain of the Navy's track team his senior year, and was inducted into the Naval Academy Sports Hall of Fame;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison graduated from the United States Naval Academy in the top 10 percent of his class, with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1956;*

*Whereas, In 1957, Senator Harrison graduated from the United States Naval Intelligence Post Graduate School.*



*Following that, he served active duty with the Office of Naval Intelligence at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison married Ann Gillespie of Williamsport, Indiana in 1956. In 1960, they moved from Washington D.C. back to Attica, Indiana where they raised their six children;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was an engineer by trade. He was vice president of Harrison Steel Castings Company, an Attica business founded by his grandfather in 1906. Senator Harrison generally spent his time rolling up his sleeves and proudly wearing the yellow hard hat of the foundry man rather than the white hat of the engineer;*

*Whereas, Beyond his work at Harrison Steel Castings Company, Senator Harrison served as a member and president of the Attica School Board in the early 1960's;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was elected to the Indiana Senate in 1966. He was the Senate Majority Leader for 25 years, and assumed Emeritus status in 2005 until he retired from the Senate in 2006;*

*Whereas, During his tenure, Senator Harrison served on a number of committees, including: Education; Elections; Public Health, Welfare and Pensions; Finance; Apportionment; Insurance; Judiciary; Labor; Benevolent and Penal Institutions; Commerce; Pensions and Labor; Rules and Legislative Procedure; Interstate Cooperation; Appointments and Claims; Health and Human Services; Insurance and Financial Institutions; Legislative Apportionment and Elections; Public Policy; and Corrections, Criminal and Civil Procedures. In addition, he served as Chairman on the following committees: Public Health, Welfare and Pensions; Finance; Labor; and Pensions and Labor;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was a member of the*



*Legislative Council, served as Chairman of the Pension Management Oversight Commission, and was a past member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), past Chairman of the NCSL Pensions Committee, past Vice Chairman of the Assembly on the Legislature, and served on the NCSL State Federal Assembly;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison authored or sponsored a number of bills pertaining to teacher and employee pensions, authoring or sponsoring most of Indiana's laws relating to worker's compensation and unemployment compensation;*

*Whereas, In 1986, Senator Harrison authored landmark legislation protecting Indiana corporations from hostile takeovers. The constitutionality of the law was upheld by the United States Supreme Court and became a model for similar legislation in at least 35 other states;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1980, 1984, and 1988;*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison was a member of the Attica First United Methodist Church, American Legion, Elks, Eagles, Wabash Valley Association, and was a former member of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees);*

*Whereas, Senator Harrison has been honored by many groups and organizations over his career. He received the Sagamore of the Wabash, Indiana's highest honorary award, from former Governors Otis R. Bowen and Robert D. Orr. He was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel by Governor John Y. Brown, Jr. of Kentucky. In 1989, he was the recipient of the National Republican Legislator of the Year award from the National Republican Legislators Association;*

*Whereas, In 1991, Senator Harrison received the Indiana*



*Chamber of Commerce Government Leader of the Year award, and the National Federation of Independent Business "Guardian of Small Business" award;*

*Whereas, In 2001, the Indiana Manufacturers Association honored Senator Harrison with a new award - the Joseph W. Harrison Legislative Service Award - for all his dedication and service to his constituents and the business communities across Indiana. He was the first and only recipient of this award;*

*Whereas, In 2006, Senator Harrison was honored with a lifetime achievement award with a fire chief's hat from the Indiana Professional Firefighters Association;*

*Whereas, In addition to his wife Ann, Senator Harrison is survived by his six children: Holly, Tracy, Thomas, Amy, Kitty, and Christy; and his 13 grandchildren: Harry, Sam, Jack, Joe and Mary Neal; Reid and Royce Harrison; Stella, James and Amelia Griffin; and Peyton, Sawyer and Reagan Schaefer; and*

*Whereas, Senator Joseph. W. Harrison served his district honorably for 40 years. He leaves an impressive legacy, and his presence will be missed by Hoosiers everywhere: Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, the House of Representatives concurring:*

1           SECTION 1. The Indiana General Assembly memorializes former  
2           Indiana State Senator Joseph W. Harrison.

3           SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to  
4           transmit a copy of this Resolution to Senator Harrison's wife, Ann, and  
5           each of their six children.

